

1. (currently amended)      An implant system, comprising:

[[a)] an implant comprising:

an interior bore,  
an implant feedback feature in the interior bore, and  
a threaded section distal of the feedback feature;

[[b)] an abutment adapted to be attached to the implant and comprising:

a post,  
a stem extending from the post adapted to fit in the interior bore, wherein the  
stem comprises a complimentary feedback feature adapted to cooperate  
with the implant feedback feature and provide feedback to a  
practitioner indicating when the abutment is properly seated, and  
a through-bore through the post and the stem; and

[[c)] an abutment screw adapted to fit within the through-bore and axially retain to  
the abutment in the implant, ~~wherein~~ the abutment screw comprising  
~~comprises~~:

a screw head adapted to interface with the abutment, and  
a distal end comprising threads adapted to engage the threaded section of the  
implant.

2. (original)    The implant system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the implant  
feedback feature and the abutment complimentary feedback feature comprises a  
resilient member adapted to deform as the abutment is being seated.

3. (original)    The implant system of claim 2, wherein the resilient member is integral  
with the stem.

4. (original)    The implant system of claim 3, wherein the implant feedback feature  
comprises a lip and the resilient member comprises a plurality of fingers positioned to  
interface with the lip.

5. (original)    The implant system of claim 2, wherein the implant feedback feature  
comprises a recess supporting the resilient member.

6. (original) The implant system of claim 5, wherein the stem comprises a recess adapted to be positioned adjacent the implant feedback feature recess when the abutment is seated.

7. (original) The implant system of claim 1, wherein the feedback provided to the practitioner is audible.

8. (original) The implant system of claim 1, wherein the feedback provided to the practitioner is tactile.

9. (original) The implant system of claim 1, wherein the feedback provided is both audible and tactile.

10. (currently amended) An implant system, comprising:

[[a)] an implant comprising:

an internal implant feedback feature, and

an internal axial retention section distal of the internal feedback feature;

[[b)] an abutment mated to the implant comprising:

a post extending beyond the implant,

a stem extending in a relative direction downward from the post and adapted to fit in the implant and comprising a feedback feature adapted to interface with the implant internal feedback feature to provide a practitioner with an indication of when the abutment is properly seated in the implant, and

a through-bore extending through the post and the stem and comprising a first diameter and a second diameter larger than the first diameter, the first diameter being closer to the internal axial retention section of the implant than the second diameter when the abutment is seated in the implant; and

[[c)] an abutment retention shaft adapted to fit in the through-bore and comprising:

a first effective diameter larger than the first diameter of the through-bore, and

a shank extending through the through-bore, wherein the shank comprises a complimentary axial retention section adapted to couple with the internal axial retention section of the implant, wherein the shaft limits axial movement of the abutment when the shaft is positioned in the through-bore and effectively coupled to the internal axial retention section of the implant.

11. (currently amended) An implant, comprising:

an internal feedback feature adapted to interface with an abutment for providing ~~to a practitioner~~ feedback indicating when the abutment is properly seated; and

an internal axial retention section distal of the internal feedback feature and adapted to couple with an abutment retention shaft extending through the abutment to limit axial movement of the abutment relative to the implant.

12. (original) The implant of claim 11, comprising:

a first internal anti-rotation feature proximal of the internal axial retention section; and

a second internal anti-rotation feature proximal of the first internal anti-rotation feature.

13. (currently amended) A dental implant system comprising the implant of claim 11 in combination with ~~[[and]]~~ the abutment.

14. (currently amended) An abutment in combination with an axial retention screw, comprising:

a post adapted to support a prosthetic tooth;

a stem extending in a relative direction downward from the post, wherein the stem is adapted to fit in an interior bore of an implant and the stem comprises a distal end opposite the post, and a feedback feature

adapted to interface with the implant to provide a practitioner with an indication of when the abutment is properly seated in the implant; and a through-bore extending through the stem and the post, wherein the through-bore ~~is adapted to receive therein an~~ the axial retention screw shaft for limiting axial movement of the abutment in response to the screw threadably engaging the interior bore of the implant.

15. (currently amended) The abutment and axial retention screw combination of claim 14, wherein the feedback feature comprises a resilient member at the distal end of the stem.

16. (currently amended) The abutment and axial retention screw combination of claim 14, wherein the through-bore comprises a first effective diameter and a second effective diameter distal of and smaller than the first effective diameter.

17. (currently amended) The abutment and axial retention screw combination of claim 14, wherein the indication provided to the practitioner when the abutment is properly seated is audible and sufficient to be heard by the practitioner.

18. (currently amended) The abutment and axial retention screw combination of claim 14, wherein the indication provided to the practitioner when the abutment is properly seated is tactile sufficient to be felt by the practitioner.

19. (currently amended) The abutment and axial retention screw combination of claim 14, wherein the indication provided to the practitioner when the abutment is properly seated is both tactile and audible and sufficient to be both heard and felt by the practitioner.

20. (original) A dental implant system, comprising:
- a dental implant having an exterior surface for contacting bone, said dental implant having an internal bore with a threaded section and an enlarged groove;
  - an abutment having a stem fitting within said internal bore and a through-bore, said stem including a resilient section that expands outwardly into said enlarged groove in response to said abutment being properly mated to said implant; and
  - a screw passing through said through-bore of said abutment and threadably engaging said threaded section of said internal bore of said implant, said screw axially retaining said abutment on said dental implant.
21. (original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said groove is circumferentially located around said bore.
22. (original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said groove is above said threaded section.
23. (original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said resilient section comprises a plurality of fingers.
24. (original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said abutment comprises an anti-rotational feature and said internal bore comprises an anti-rotational feature for engaging said anti-rotational feature of said abutment.
25. (original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said internal bore comprises two distinct anti-rotational features.
26. (original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said screw comprises a head that is seated within said through-bore of said abutment when said screw is engaging said threaded section of said internal bore.

27. (original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said resilient section and said enlarged groove combine to provide feedback concerning said abutment.

28. (original) The dental implant system of claim 27, wherein said feedback provided is audible.

29. (original) The dental implant system of claim 27, wherein said feedback provided is tactile.

30. (original) The dental implant system of claim 27, wherein said feedback provided is both audible and tactile.

31. (original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said resilient section and said enlarged groove combine to resist axial movement of said abutment relative to said implant.

32. (original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said resilient section and said enlarged groove combine to apply an axial retention force to said abutment.

33. (original) A dental method, comprising:  
coupling an abutment to an implant positioned in a patient;  
sensing a tactile feedback associated with seating the abutment; and  
subsequent to sensing the tactile feedback, engaging the implant with retention structure to resist axial movement of the abutment relative to the implant.

34. (original) The method of claim 33, comprising rotating the retention structure and allowing the retention structure to move deeper into the implant as the retention structure is rotated.

35. (original) A dental method, comprising:

coupling an abutment to an implant positioned in a patient;  
sensing a tactile feedback associated with seating the abutment; and  
subsequent to sensing the tactile feedback, engaging a threaded bore within the  
implant with an axial retention screw to limit axial movement of the  
abutment relative to the implant.

36. (withdrawn) A dental implant system, comprising:

a dental implant having an exterior surface for contacting bone, said dental  
implant having an internal bore with a threaded section and an  
enlarged groove;  
an impression coping having a stem fitting within said internal bore and a  
through-bore, said stem including a resilient section that expands  
outwardly into said enlarged groove in response to said impression  
coping being properly mated to said implant; and  
a screw passing through said through-bore of said impression coping and  
threadably engaging said threaded section of said internal bore of said  
implant, said screw axially retaining said impression coping on said  
dental implant.

37. (withdrawn) The system of claim 36, wherein the screw is an impression  
coping transfer screw.

38. (withdrawn) The system of claim 36, wherein the screw is an impression  
coping pickup screw.

39. (withdrawn) A dental implant system, comprising:

a dental implant having an exterior surface for contacting bone, said dental  
implant having a table, an internal bore with a threaded section, an  
axial-movement-inhibiting feature and an anti-rotation section,  
wherein the axial-movement-inhibiting feature and the anti-rotation  
section are between the table and the threaded section;

- an impression coping having a stem anti-rotationally fitting within said internal bore of the implant, the impression coping including a through-bore, and the stem including an axial-movement-inhibiting feature, wherein the implant axial-movement-inhibiting feature and the impression coping axial-movement-inhibiting feature are resiliently engaged in response to said impression coping being properly mated to said implant; and
- a screw passing through said through-bore of said impression coping and threadably engaging said threaded section of said internal bore of said implant, said screw axially retaining said impression coping on said dental implant.

40. (withdrawn)      The system of claim 39, wherein the axial-movement-inhibiting feature of the implant comprises an enlarged groove and the axial-movement-inhibiting feature of the impression coping stem comprises one or more resilient members.